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EXAMINER

PHAM, KHANH B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2177

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7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PPE

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/820,662

Applicant(s)

TALIB ET AL.

Examiner

Khanh B. Pham

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - The serial number for the related provisional application on page 1, line 10 is incorrect. Appropriate correction is required.
 - The numbering of claims is not in accordance with 37 CFR 1.126. The number 14 has been used for two different claims. Misnumbered claims **14-36** have been renumbered **15-37**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. **Claims 31-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112**, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claim 31 recites "means embodied thereon **for searching an electronic product catalog**" in lines 1-2. This limitation is not described in the specification. The specification describes means for searching a collection of biological data, but does not describes "means for searching an electronic product catalog".

Claim 34 recites the limitation "code mean **for querying the electronic product catalog**". This limitation is not described in the specification.

Claims 32-33, 35-37 are rejected for fully incorporating the deficiencies of claim 31 by dependency.

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. **Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph**, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "**the electronic product catalog**" in line 8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 10 recites the limitation "**the system for searching an electronic catalog according to claim 1**" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 14 recites the limitation: "**The system for searching an electronic product catalog according to claim 11**" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 16 recites the limitation "**the string**" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claims 2-9, 11-13, 15, 17-20 are rejected for fully incorporating the deficiencies of claim 1 by dependency.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. **Claims 1-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)** as being unpatentable over Wical (US 5,940,821 A) and in view of Seilhamer et al. (US 6,023,659A).

As per claim 1, Wical teaches a system for searching a data collection comprising:

- “an organizer configured to receive search requests, said organizer comprising: a data collection having at least two entries” at Col. 2 lines 40-65;
- “wherein the data collection is organized into at least two taxonomies; wherein each of the at least two taxonomies is associated with at least two categories” at Col. 2 lines 40-65 and Figs. 3-4, 8A-C, 9AC ;
- “wherein the entries correspond to at least one of the at least two taxonomies and also correspond to at least one of the at least two categories” at Figs. 3-4, 8A-C, 9AC;
- “a search engine in communication with the electronic product catalog, wherein said search engine is configured to search based on the at least two taxonomies and based on the at least two categories” at Col. 25 lines 10-60;
- “wherein the search engine returns, in response to a search request identifying at least a first taxonomy of the at least two taxonomies, a list of the categories associated with the at least first identified taxonomies, along with the number of

entries associated with each of the categories associated with the at least first identified taxonomies" at Col. 25 lines 27-45 and Figs. 10A-C.

The difference between Wical and the invention of claim 1 is that the claim relates to "a bioinformatics data collection" whereas Wical relates to a data collection include "a compilation of information from any sources" (Col. 5 lines 54-55) and does not explicitly indicate that the data collection is "a bioinformatics data collection" as claimed.

However, "bioinformatics data collection" is well known in the art, as exemplified by Seilhamer's invention, which relates to "relational databases for storing and retrieving biological information" (Col. 1 lines 24-25). Consider this, it would have been obvious to those of ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the invention to apply Wical's invention to "a bioinformatics data collection" as claimed because as indicated by Seilhamer, *"increasingly, molecular biology is shifting from the laboratory bench to the computer desktop. Today's researchers require advanced quantitative analyses, database comparisons, and computational algorithms to explore the relationships between sequence and phenotype. Thus, by all account, researchers cannot and will not be able to avoid using computer resources to explore gene expression, gene sequencing, and molecular structure"* (Col. 1 lines 35-43). Consequently, the computerization of bioinformation data collection would enable users of Wical's system to more effectively manage collected data pertaining to human genes.

As per claim 2, Wical and Seilhamer teach the system according to claim 1 as stated above. Seilhamer also teaches:

- “the returned list of categories associated with the at least one first taxonomies, along with the number of entries associated with each of the categories associated with the identified taxonomies can be further searched with regard to at least a second taxonomy of the at least two taxonomies” at Col. 23 lines 5-30;
- “whereby the search engine returns, in response to a search request identifying the at least second taxonomies of the at least two taxonomies, a list of the categories associated with both identified taxonomies, along with the number of entries associated with each of the categories associated with the second taxonomies” at Col. 23 lines 5-30 and Col. 34 lines 30-43.

As per claim 3, Wical and Seilhamer teach the system according to claim 1 as stated above. Wical also teaches: “wherein the search engine, having returned, in response to a search request identifying at least a first taxonomy of the at least two taxonomies, a list of the categories associated with the identified taxonomies, along with the number of entries associated with each of the categories associated with the identified taxonomies, will provide only those categories with a non-zero number of entries associated with the identified taxonomies and will further return sub-categories both associated with the category and having a non-zero number of entries associated with the sub-category” at Col. 25 lines 10-45 and Figs 10B-C.

As per claim 4, Wical and Seilhamer teach the system according to claim 3 as stated above. Wical also teaches: " wherein the search engine, having further returned sub-categories both associated with the category and having a non-zero number of entries associated with the sub-category, will, in response to a search request identifying at least a second taxonomy of the at least two taxonomies, provide a list of the categories with a non-zero number of entries associated with the at least second identified taxonomies, along with the number of entries associated with each of the categories associated with the at least second identified taxonomies" at Col. 25 lines 10-45 and Figs. 10A-C.

As per claim 5, Wical and Seilhamer teach the system according to claim 1 as stated above. Wical also teaches: "wherein the search engine, having returned, in response to a search request identifying at least a first taxonomy of the at least two taxonomies, a list of the categories associated with the identified taxonomies, along with the number of entries associated with each of the categories associated with the identified taxonomies, will, in response to a string query, provide those entries which both contain the string and are associated with the identified taxonomies" at Col. 25 lines 10-45 and Figs. 10A-C.

As per claim 6, Wical and Seilhamer teach the system according to claim 5 as stated above. Wical also teaches: "wherein the string is one member of the group consisting of text, image, and graphic" at Figs. 11A-B.

As per claim 7, Wical and Seilhamer teach the system according to claim 1 as stated above. Wical also teaches: "wherein the system comprises a network of computers" at Col. 5 lines 55-60.

As per claim 8, Wical and Seilhamer teach the system according to claim 1 as stated above. Wical also teaches: "the system comprises a single computer" at Fig. 14.

As per claim 9, Wical and Seilhamer teach the system according to claim 1 as stated above. Wical also teaches: "the system further comprises a cache which stores the returned results of the search engine for rapid retrieval" at Col. 31 lines 65-67.

As per claim 10, Wical and Seilhamer teach the system for searching an electronic product catalog according to claim 1 as stated above. Seilhamer also teaches: "at least one taxonomy of the at least two taxonomies is selected from the group consisting of organism, biological process, molecular function, species, and cellular component" at Col. 7 lines 35-55 and Col. 24 lines 5-25.

As per claim 11, Wical teaches a system for searching a data collection comprising:

- "means for networking a plurality of computers" at Col. 32 lines 30-37;
- "means for organizing executing in said computer network and configured to receive search requests from any one of said plurality of computers, said means for organizing comprising: a data collection having at least two entries" at Col. 2 lines 40-65;

- “wherein the data collection is organized into at least two taxonomies; wherein each of the at least two taxonomies is associated with at least two categories” at Col. 2 lines 40-65 and Figs. 3-4, 8A-C, and 9A-C;
- “wherein the entries correspond to at least one of the at least two taxonomies and also correspond to at least one of the at least two categories” at Figs. 3-4, 8A-C, and 9A-C;
- “and means for searching in communication with the data collection, wherein said means for searching is configured to search based on the at least two taxonomies and based on the at least two categories” at Col. 25 lines 10-60;
- “wherein the means for searching returns, in response to a search request identifying at least one of the at least two taxonomies, a list of the categories associated with the identified taxonomies, along with the number of entries associated with each of the categories associated with the identified taxonomies” at Col. 25 lines 27-45 and Figs. 10A-C.

The difference between Wical and the invention of claim 11 is that the claim relates to “a bioinformatics data collection” whereas Wical relates to a data collection include “a compilation of information from any sources” (Col. 5 lines 54-55) and does not explicitly indicate that the data collection is “a bioinformatics data collection” as claimed.

However, “bioinformatics data collection” is well known in the art, as exemplified by Seilhamer’s invention, which relates to “relational databases for storing and retrieving

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biological information" (Col. 1 lines 24-25). Consider this, it would have been obvious to those of ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the invention to apply Wical's invention to "a bioinformatics data collection" as claimed because, as indicated by Seilhamer, *"increasingly, molecular biology is shifting from the laboratory bench to the computer desktop. Today's researchers require advanced quantitative analyses, database comparisons, and computational algorithms to explore the relationships between sequence and phenotype. Thus, by all account, researchers cannot and will not be able to avoid using computer resources to explore gene expression, gene sequencing, and molecular structure"* (Col. 1 lines 35-43). Consequently, the computerization of bioinformation data collection would enable users of Wical's system to more effectively manage collected data pertaining to human genes.

As per claim 12, Wical and Seilhamer teach the system according to claim 11 as stated above. Seilhamer also teaches:

- "the returned list of categories associated with the at least first taxonomy, along with the number of entries associated with each of the categories associated with the identified taxonomies can be further searched with regard to at least a second of the at least two taxonomies" at Col. 23 lines 5-30;
- "whereby the means for searching returns, in response to a search request identifying the at least second taxonomy of the at least two taxonomies, a list of

the categories associated with all identified taxonomies, along with the number of entries associated with each of the categories associated with the at least second taxonomy" at Col. 23 lines 5-30 and Col. 34 lines 30-43.

As per claim 13, Wical and Seilhamer teach the system according to claim 11 as stated above. Wical also teaches: "the means for searching, having returned, in response to a search request identifying at least a first taxonomy of the at least two taxonomies, a list of the categories associated with the identified taxonomies, along with the number of entries associated with each of the categories associated with the identified taxonomies, will provide only those categories with a non-zero number of entries associated with the identified taxonomies and will further provide sub-categories associated with the category and having a non-zero number of entries associated with the sub-category" at Col. 25 lines 10-45 and Figs. 10B-C.

As per claim 14, Wical and Seilhamer teach the system according to claim 11 as stated above. Wical also teaches: "the means for searching, having further returned sub-categories both associated with the category and having a non-zero number of entries associated with the sub-category, will, in response to a search request identifying at least a second taxonomy of the at least two taxonomies, provide a list of the categories with a non-zero number of entries associated with the at least second identified taxonomy, along with the number of entries associated with each of the categories associated with the at least second identified taxonomy" at Col. 25 lines 10-45 and Figs. 10A-C.

As per claim 15, Wical and Seilhamer teach the system according to claim 13 as stated above. Wical also teaches: "the means for searching, having returned, in response to a search request identifying at least a first taxonomy of the at least two taxonomies, a list of the categories associated with the identified taxonomies, along with the number of entries associated with each of the categories associated with the identified taxonomies, will, in response to a string query, provide those entries which both contain the string and are associated with the identified taxonomies" at Col. 25 lines 10-45 and Figs. 10A-C.

As per claim 16, Wical and Seilhamer teach the system according to claim 11 as stated above. Wical also teaches: "the string is one member of the group consisting of text, image, and graphic" at Figs. 11A-B.

As per claim 17, Wical and Seilhamer teach the system according to claim 11 as stated above. Wical also teaches: "the system comprises a network of computers" at Col. 5 lines 55-60.

As per claim 18, Wical and Seilhamer teach the system according to claim 11 as stated above. Wical also teaches: "the system comprises a single computer" at Fig. 14.

As per claim 19, Wical and Seilhamer teach the system according to claim 11 as stated above. Wical also teaches: "the system further comprises a cache which stores the returned results of the means for searching for rapid retrieval" at Col. 31 lines 65-67.

As per claim 20, Wical and Seilhamer teach the system according to claim 11 as stated above. Seilhamer also teaches: "at least one taxonomy of the at least two

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taxonomies is selected from the group consisting of organism, biological process, molecular function, species, and cellular component” at Col. 7 lines 35-55 and Col. 24 lines 5-25.

As per claim 21, Wical teaches a method for searching a data collection comprising:

- “communicating a search request to a search engine, the search engine being in communication with a data collection, wherein the data collection has at least two entries” at Col. 2 lines 40-65;
- “wherein the data collection is organized into at least two taxonomies; wherein each of the at least two taxonomies is associated with at least two categories” at Col. 2 lines 40-65 and Figs. 3-4, 8A-C, 9A-C;
- “wherein the at least two entries correspond to at least one of the at least two taxonomies and also correspond to at least one of the at least two categories” at Fig. 3-4, 8A-C;
- “querying of the data collection by the search engine based on the communicated search request; wherein the communicated search request identifies at least one of the at least two taxonomies; returning of a list of the categories associated with the at least one identified taxonomy, along with the number of entries associated with each of the categories associated with the at

least one identified taxonomy as a response to the querying of the bioinformatics collection" at Col. 25 lines 27-45 and Figs. 10A-C.

The difference between Wical and the invention of claim 21 is that the claim relates to "a bioinformatics collection" whereas Wical relates to a data collection include "a compilation of information from any sources" (Col. 5 lines 54-55) and does not explicitly indicate that the data collection is "a bioinformatics collection" as claimed.

However, "bioinformatics data collection" is well known in the art, as exemplified by Seilhamer's invention, which relates to "relational databases for storing and retrieving biological information" (Col. 1 lines 24-25). Consider this, it would have been obvious to those of ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the invention to apply Wical's invention to "a bioinformatics collection" as claimed because as indicated by Seilhamer, *"increasingly, molecular biology is shifting from the laboratory bench to the computer desktop. Today's researchers require advanced quantitative analyses, database comparisons, and computational algorithms to explore the relationships between sequence and phenotype. Thus, by all account, researchers cannot and will not be able to avoid using computer resources to explore gene expression, gene sequencing, and molecular structure"* (Col. 1 lines 35-43). Consequently, the computerization of bioinformation data collection would enable users of Wical's system to more effectively manage collected data pertaining to human genes.

As per claim 22, Wical and Seilhamer teach the method according to claim 21 as stated above. Seilhamer also teaches: “the method further comprises returning, in response to a search request identifying at least a second taxonomy of the at least two taxonomies, a list of the categories associated with all identified taxonomies, along with the number of entries associated with each of the categories associated with the at least second taxonomy” at Col. 23 lines 5-30.

As per claim 23, Wical and Seilhamer teach the method according to claim 21 as stated above. Wical also teaches: “the method further comprises returning a list of only those categories with a non-zero number of entries associated with the identified taxonomies and further returning at least one sub-category associated with the category and having a non-zero number of entries associated with the sub-category” at Fig. 10B.

As per claim 24, Wical and Seilhamer teach the method according to claim 23 as stated above. Wical also teaches: “the method further comprises having further returned sub-categories both associated with the category and having a non-zero number of entries associated with the sub-category, providing, in response to a search request identifying at least a second taxonomy of the at least two taxonomies, provide a list of the categories with a non-zero number of entries associated with the at least second identified taxonomy, along with the number of entries associated with each of the categories associated with the at least second identified taxonomy” at Col. 25 lines 10-45 and Figs. 10B-C.

As per claim 25, Wical and Seilhamer teach the method according to claim 21 as stated above. Wical also teaches: "the method further comprises returning, in response to a string query, provide those entries which both contain the string and are associated with the identified taxonomy" at Figs. 11A-B.

As per claim 26, Wical and Seilhamer teach the method according to claim 25 as stated above. Wical also teaches: "wherein the string is one member of the group consisting of text, image, and graphic" at Figs. 11A-B.

As per claim 27, Wical and Seilhamer teach the method according to claim 21 as stated above. Wical also teaches: "the system comprises a network of computers" at Col. 5 lines 55-60.

As per claim 28, Wical and Seilhamer teach the method according to claim 21 as stated above. Wical also teaches: "the system comprises a single computer" at Fig. 14.

As per claim 29, Wical and Seilhamer teach the method according to claim 21 as stated above. Wical also teaches: "wherein the system further comprises a cache which stores the returned results of the means for searching for rapid retrieval" at Col. 31 lines 65-67.

As per claim 30, Wical and Seilhamer teach the method according to claim 26. Seilhamer also teaches: "wherein at least one taxonomy of the at least two taxonomies is selected from the group consisting of organism, biological process, molecular function, species, and cellular component" at Col. 7 lines 35-55 and Col. 24 lines 5-25.

As per claim 31, Wical teaches an article of manufacture comprising:

- “a computer usable medium having computer program code means embodied thereon for searching an electronic product catalog, the computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture comprising: computer readable program code means for communicating a search request to a search engine, the search engine being in communication with a data collection, wherein the bioinformatics collection has at least two entries” at Col. 2 lines 40-65;
- “wherein the bioinformatics collection is organized into at least two taxonomies; wherein each of the at least two taxonomies is associated with at least two categories” at Figs. 3-4, 8A-C, and 9A-C;
- “wherein the at least two entries correspond to at least one of the at least two taxonomies and also correspond to at least one of the at least two categories” at Figs. 3-4, 8A-C, and 9A-C;
- “computer readable program code means for querying of the bioinformatics collection by the search engine based on the communicated search request; wherein a communicated search request identifies at least one of the at least two taxonomies” at Col. 25 lines 10-60;
- “and computer readable program code means for returning of a list of the categories associated with the at least one identified taxonomy, along with the number of entries associated with each of the categories associated with the at

least one identified taxonomy as a response to the querying of the bioinformatics collection" at Col. 25 lines 27-45 and Figs. 10A-C.

The difference between Wical and the invention of claim 31 is that the claim relates to "a bioinformatics collection" whereas Wical relates to a data collection include "a compilation of information from any sources" (Col. 5 lines 54-55) and does not explicitly indicate that the data collection is "a bioinformatics collection" as claimed.

However, "bioinformatics data collection" is well known in the art, as exemplified by Seilhamer's invention, which relates to "relational databases for storing and retrieving biological information" (Col. 1 lines 24-25). Consider this, it would have been obvious to those of ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the invention to apply Wilcal's invention to "a bioinformatics collection" as claimed because as indicated by Seilhamer, *"increasingly, molecular biology is shifting from the laboratory bench to the computer desktop. Today's researchers require advanced quantitative analyses, database comparisons, and computational algorithms to explore the relationships between sequence and phenotype. Thus, by all account, researchers cannot and will not be able to avoid using computer resources to explore gene expression, gene sequencing, and molecular structure"* (Col. 1 lines 35-43). Consequently, the computerization of bioinformation data collection would enable users of Wical's system to more effectively manage collected data pertaining to human genes.

As per claim 32, Wical and Seilhamer teach the article of manufacture according to claim 31 as stated above. Seilhamer also teaches:

- “wherein the returned list of categories associated with the at least first taxonomy, along with the number of entries associated with each of the categories associated with the identified taxonomies can be further searched with regard to at least a second of the at least two taxonomies” at Col. 23 lines 5-30;
- “whereby the computer readable program code means for querying of the bioinformatics collection by the search engine returns, in response to a search request identifying the at least second taxonomy of the at least two taxonomies, a list of the categories associated with all identified taxonomies, along with the number of entries associated with each of the categories associated with the at least second taxonomy” at Col. 23 lines 5-30 and Col. 34 lines 30-43.

As per claim 33, Wical and Seilhamer teach the article of manufacture according to claim 31 as stated above. Wical also teaches: “wherein the computer readable program code means for querying of the data collection by the search engine, having returned, in response to a search request identifying at least a first taxonomy of the at least two taxonomies, a list of the categories associated with the identified taxonomies, along with the number of entries associated with each of the categories associated with the identified taxonomies, will provide only those categories with a non-zero number of entries associated with the identified taxonomies and will further provide sub-categories

associated with the category and having a non-zero number of entries associated with the sub-category” at Col. 25 lines 10-45 and Figs. 10B-C.

As per claim 34, Wical and Seilhamer teach the article of manufacture according to claim 31. Wical also teaches; “wherein the computer readable program code means for querying of the electronic product catalog by the search engine, having further returned sub-categories both associated with the category and having a non-zero number of entries associated with the sub-category, will, in response to a search request identifying at least a second taxonomy of the at least two taxonomies, provide a list of the categories with a non-zero number of entries associated with the at least second identified taxonomy, along with the number of entries associated with each of the categories associated with the at least second identified taxonomy” at Col. 25 lines 10-45 and Figs. 10B-C.

As per claim 35, Wical and Seilhamer teach the article of manufacture according to claim 34 as stated above. Wical also teaches: “wherein the means for searching, having returned, in response to a search request identifying at least a first taxonomy of the at least two taxonomies, a list of the categories associated with the identified taxonomies, along with the number of entries associated with each of the categories associated with the identified taxonomy, will, in response to a string query, provide those entries which both contain the string and are associated with the identified taxonomies” at Col 25 lines 10-45 and Figs. 10A-C.

As per claim 36, Wical and Seilhamer teach the article of manufacture according to claim 31 as stated above. Wical also teaches: "the string is one member of the group consisting of text, image, and graphic" at Figs. 11A-B.

As per claim 37, Wical and Seilhamer teach the article of manufacture according to claim 31 as stated above. Seilhamer also teaches: "wherein at least one taxonomy of the at least two taxonomies is selected from the group consisting of organism, biological process, molecular function, species, and cellular component" at Col. 7 lines 35-55 and Col. 24 lines 5-25.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record, listed on form PTO-892, and not relied upon, if any, is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

If a reference indicated as being mailed on PTO-FORM 892 has not been enclosed in this action, please contact Lisa Craney whose telephone number is **(703) 305-9601** for faster service.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khanh B. Pham whose telephone number is (703) 308-7299. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30am to 4:00pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)746-7240.

Khanh B. Pham
Examiner
Art Unit 2177

KBP
May 28, 2003


JEAN R. HOMERE
PRIMARY EXAMINER